

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A network system for processing economical data residing in a virtual space activated on a network, through which a plurality of computers are coupled to each other, said system comprising:

a virtual-space creating section to create said virtual space in which subjects of said plurality of computers participate, said virtual space has a virtual space economy that is independent from a real world economy;

a virtual-currency creating section in communication with said virtual-space creating server, said virtual-currency creating section to create a virtual currency serving as cash being effective in said virtual space, so as to distribute said virtual-currency among said subjects;

a virtual-currency storing section in communication with said virtual-space creating server, said virtual-currency storing section to store said virtual currency created by said virtual-currency creating section; and

a value-information storing section in communication with said virtual-space creating server, said value-information storing section to store a value information, which represents value of economic activities in said virtual space, set serving as a buying-and-selling-object, said virtual currency is exchanged for said value information in said virtual space, which can be traded within said virtual space by exchanging said virtual currency between said subjects; and

wherein said value information set is provided in said virtual space as needed, or is created or modified by a subject, being one of said subjects, as a result of activities of said subjects in said virtual space; and

wherein said virtual currency, owned by said subject as a result of economical activities in said virtual space, can be converted to can be exchanged for a real currency serving as cash in a real world being effective in a real world.

17. (Currently Amended) The network system at claim 16,

wherein a value of said value information set is represented by value data indicating an amount of said virtual currency, and said value information set is stored in said value-information storing section, while being correlated with said value data.

18. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 16, wherein a value of said value information set is represented by value data indicating an amount of said virtual currency; and said network system further comprising: a value-information evaluating section to evaluate said value information set, so as to generate said value data based on a result of evaluating said value information set.

19. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 16, further comprising: an identification data generating section to generate identification data sets, each of which is attached to each of said subjects of said plurality of computers, between which said virtual currency are exchanged within said virtual space.

20. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 19, further comprising: a determining section to determine whether or not each of said subjects can participate in said virtual space, based on each of said identification data sets, so that said determining section allows a subject, having a defined proper identification data set, to participate in said virtual space.

21. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 19, wherein said value information set is stored in said value-information storing section, while being correlated with said identification data set.

22. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 19, wherein said virtual currency are stored in virtual-currency storing section, while being correlated with said identification data set.

23. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 16, further comprising: a virtual-currency evaluating section to evaluate said virtual currency in comparison with said real currency being effective in said real world, so as to derive an exchange rate between said virtual currency and said real currency from a result of evaluating said virtual currency.

24. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 23, further comprising: a currency exchanging section to exchange said virtual currency for said real currency, based on said exchange rate derived by said virtual-currency evaluating section.

25. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 16, wherein said value information set is an image information set.

26. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 16, wherein said virtual currency is provided to said subject as reward for a time period in which said subject is restricted to said economic activities in said virtual space.

27. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 16, whercin said virtual-spacc creating section, said virtual-currency creating section, said virtual-currency storing section and said value-information storing section are included in a server coupled to said network.

28. (Currently Amended) A program for executing operations for processing economical data residing in a virtual space activated on a network, through which a plurality of computers are coupled to each other, said program comprising the functional steps of:

creating said virtual space in which subjects of said plurality of computers participate, said virtual space has a virtual space economy that is independent from a real world economy;

creating virtual currency serving as cash being effective in said virtual space, so as to distribute said virtual-currency among said subjects;

storing said virtual currency, created in said creating step of said virtual currency, in a virtual currency storing section; and

storing a value information, which represents value of economic activities in said virtual space, -set serving as a buying and selling object, which can be traded within said virtual space by exchanging said virtual currency between said subjects, in a value-information storing section, said value information is exchanged for said virtual currency in said virtual space; and

exchanging said virtual currency into a real currency, which serves as cash in a real world,

wherein said value information set is provided in said virtual space as needed, or is created or modified by a subject, being one of said subjects, as a result of activities of said subject in said virtual space; and

wherein said virtual currency, owned by said subject as a result of economical activities in said virtual space, can be converted to real currency being effective in a real world.

29. (New) A system for providing a virtual space in which economical activities are conducted, said system comprising:

a plurality of terminal devices for a plurality of participants to participate in said virtual space;

a main server configured to create said virtual space for said plurality of participants, said virtual space has a virtual space economy that is independent from a real world economy; and

a network coupling said main server and said plurality of terminal devices to each other; wherein said main server includes:

a virtual-space creating section that creates said virtual space in which said plurality of participants perform said economical activities;

a virtual-currency creating section that creates a virtual currency serving as cash effective for said economical activities performed by said plurality of participants;

a virtual-currency storing section storing said virtual currency created by said virtual currency creating section;

a value-information storing section storing value information, having an economical value as a buying and selling object effective within said virtual space; and

a value-information trading section controlling trading activities of said value-information between said plurality of participants; and

wherein each of said plurality of participants can provide said value information in said virtual space through each of said terminal devices, and can trade said value information with other participants in exchange for said virtual currency through said value-information trading section.